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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our rock and fortress, You put the mountains in place and bring silence to roaring waves. We celebrate and sing because You are always with us. You are a strong tower where we find safety. Strengthen our faith and forgive us when we doubt Your power and providence. Thank You for this great land and for the many freedoms we sometimes take for granted.

Lord, we appreciate Your faithfulness and Your mercies that are new each day. Today, lead our lawmakers so that Your Name will be honored.

And, Lord, bless Senator MCCONNELL with a speedy recovery.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 701

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, a little housekeeping, and then I will give my remarks.

I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 701) to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar, under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

MITCH MCCONNELL

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, my thoughts this morning are with my good friend Leader MITCH MCCONNELL, who is recovering in the hospital after an accident last night.

This morning, I offer a prayer of strength and healing for the leader and his family. I called the leader this morning and spoke briefly with his staff to extend my prayers and well wishes. My thoughts are also with Leader MCCONNELL's family and his team.

I join every single one of my colleagues in wishing Leader MCCONNELL a speedy and full recovery.

BUDGET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on the President's budget, today, as we all know, President Biden will release his budget for fiscal year 2024.

As promised, the President's budget is set to be a bold, optimistic, and seri-

ous proposal for strengthening our economy and creating opportunities to climb into the middle class as well as helping people stay there once they get in the middle class.

The President's budget succeeds where Republicans have failed by presenting a realistic blueprint for lowering the deficit without cutting benefits tens of millions of Americans rely upon. Unlike the Republicans, the President's plan actually protects Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid while building on Democrats' work to lower prescription drug costs and save taxpayer dollars.

Again, Republicans love to talk about deficit cuts and saving tax dollars, but Democrats are the ones actually getting it done.

The President's budget prioritizes a strong defense. It offers robust support for Ukraine, which, after last night's brutal missile barrage, remains as urgent as ever.

Unlike Republicans, the President's plan invests in America instead of starving it. The President's budget invests in advanced manufacturing and high-tech jobs and scientific research, job training, education, and apprenticeships.

The President's budget asks the wealthiest Americans to pay just a little more of their fair share in taxes so that programs like Medicare remain solvent for decades. Just about all Americans think this is just plain fair because there is no justification for the ultrawealthy to have a lower tax burden on a percentage basis than teachers and nurses and cabdrivers and firefighters.

I want to thank President Biden for laying down an optimistic, forward-thinking vision for our country. This is what Americans want. They want real stuff. They want positive thinking about the future, help for those in the middle class to stay there, and for those struggling to get to the middle class, to make it a little easier to get there.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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